

What to know about freezing temperatures and your pool.

Although we have not had severely cold weather yet, in North Carolina cold weather can strike at any time! We hope this is a guide you can save for when that cold weather pops up unexpectedly.

Here at Rising Sun Pools, we wanted to go over how to best protect your pool during these frigid winter months. Winterizing and covering your pool for the winter months is the only way to truly protect your equipment from freeze damage. If you chose to leave your pool open and your equipment operating over the winter then under normal winter conditions, water moving through pool equipment should not freeze. If your equipment is freeze protection enabled then it should perform as advertised to protect your system from freezing. Freeze protection will not protect lines that are not open and running such as lines for water features, sheer decent, slide lines and patio jets. These lines can be winterized independently from the rest of your pool equipment and is strongly recommended.

What we recommend

Our normal recommendation, if you keep your pool running during the winter, is to set your timers so that the equipment runs overnight and is off during the day when temperatures are more likely to be above freezing. If you have freeze protection it will turn your equipment on during any times it is set to be off if the temperature drops below freezing (the freezing temperature your system is typically set to is 36-38). If staying open and running freeze protection should be set to highest speed when prolonged (sub-freezing) temps are forecasted.

We do not usually experience prolonged freezing temperatures like many do in other parts of the country and we do advise customers that this is to be done at their own risk. An unexpected loss of power or equipment failure can be disastrous for your pool and spa equipment during periods of freezing temperatures.

In the event of a deep freeze, like we experienced in years past, we strongly suggest you either cover and winterize your equipment in the fall and open it back up in early spring or simply winterize all of your equipment during our lowest temperatures between mid-December and the beginning of March.

You are never required to cover your pool. But, the longer your pool sits stagnant and exposed to sunlight, the more debris will get into the pool and more likely algae will grow, therefore, causing a more difficult spring clean-up.

At a minimum, we again encourage you to winterize individual lines that are more prone to freeze damage, like water features (sheer descents, rock waterfalls and patio jets), slides and certain types of spillover spas.

If your pool is not winterized, and you experience a loss of power during freezing temperatures, the pool equipment will typically go undamaged if it is not running for a few hours. However, if a power failure is prolonged, or you are concerned the loss of power will result in freeze damage, then we recommend the following:

1. If you plan to winterize your equipment during a power failure TURN OFF ALL POWER to the pool equipment either at the breaker or the system itself. You do not want the equipment to come back on and run without water once the power is restored. The system running with plugs out and winterized will cause damage to the equipment. *If you chose to follow recommendation #6 then you can keep the power to the equipment on.

2. Locate the drain plugs on ALL your pool equipment (pump, filter, heater, etc.) before you need to use them. Note that some individual components may have more than one drain plug.

3. Locate your salt cell and know how to remove it or to insulate it very well. The salt cell is one of the most common items to experience freeze damage since it is not insulated by the ground and is completely exposed to the elements.

4. If the power goes out for an extended period of time when temperatures are below freezing, you will want to drain your equipment (pumps, filters, heaters, salt systems), the above-ground plumbing and equipment is most susceptible to freeze damage.

5. If your equipment is below water level you will need to plug your "ports/jets" located inside the pool so the water doesn't gravity drain through the open drain plug holes.

6. *As an alternative to the recommendations above you can simply keep the equipment exactly as it is and wrap ALL of the equipment and lines in insulation or blankets/sleeping bags to try and keep them from freezing until the power is restored. This recommendation will not guarantee the equipment will not have freeze damage and should only be used short term.

7. Do not break up the ice in the pool if you have a vinyl liner pool, you can damage your liner if you do this.

8. Do not DRAIN your pool under any circumstances. Freeze damaged equipment can usually be repaired, the massive damage your pool can experience due to being empty can cause irreparable damage.

9. Please call us or use the contact form on the website should you have any questions during freezing weather or power outages over the winter.

Please contact us with any questions regarding your pool and our winterization recommendations. To schedule your winterization or repairs, please call 919-851-9700 x225